

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07300 291824Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----291940Z 058561 /45

P R 291545Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4509
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 7300

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR
SUBJ: VISIT OF CARRIER USS JOHN F. KENNEDY TO
ALEXANDRIA MAY 2-6

1. GIVEN CURRENT SENSITIVITY ABOUT EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN
INTENTIONS, INCLUDING RECENT SOVIET MEMORANDUM
(CAIRO 7140), I WANT TO BE SURE THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT
THE UPCOMING VISIT OF THE CARRIER, JOHN F. KENNEDY, TO
ALEXANDRIA MAY 2 -6. THIS WILL BE THE LARGEST US
NAVAL VESSEL THAT HAS VISITED AN EGYPTIAN PORT IN THE
LAST FOUR YEARS.

2. ITS APPEARANCE AT THIS TIME COULD BE MISINTERPRETED,
BUT THE FACTS ARE THESE: BECAUSE OF THE US NAVY'S GREAT
PROBLEMS IN FINDING VISITATION PORTS IN THE EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN, I WAS ABLE SOME MONTHS AGO TO PERSUADE
OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS TO PERMIT US EIGHT NAVAL VISITS A
YEAR TO EGYPTIAN PORTS. THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT BOON TO
THE NAVY AND CINCUSNAVEUR, ADMIRAL BAGLEY, HAS BEEN MOST
APPRECIATIVE. UP TO NOW WE HAVE HAD MAINLY DESTROYERS

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AND ONE NUCLEAR -POWERED CRUISER VISIT ALEXANDRIA.
SOMETIME AGO ADMIRAL BAGLEY INDICATED HIS INTEREST IN
SENDING A LARGER VESSEL, LIKE A CARRIER, IN ORDER TO
GIVE THE CREWS BADLY NEEDED LIBERTY.

3. THE REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE FOR THE JFK VISIT WAS
RECEIVED AT LEAST TWO MONTHS AGO AND WAS WORKED OUT

WITH THE EGYPTIANS ON A ROUTINE BASIS. THERE MAY BE
THOSE WHO WILL SEEK TO INTERPRET THE VISIT AS A COUNTER-
POISE TO THE RECENT SOVIET ASSUMPTION OF PROTECTING
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR LIBYA, BUT IF ASKED, DEPARTMENT PRESS
SPOKESMAN MIGHT INDICATE THAT VISIT HAS BEEN PLANNED
FOR SOME TIME AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CURRENT EGYPTIAN/
LIBYAN TENSIONS.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: OCLR
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